THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) As per the policy adopted by the Government of India, the Kerosene (SKO) allocation for distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) to various States/Union Territories, including Kerala, was reduced every year beginning 2001-02 and upto 2004-05, taking into account the number of LPG connections released in each of the States/Union Territories.

The details of the quantity of PDS SKO allocated to the State of Kerala during the period from 2000-01 to till date are as under:—

Year	Quantity (In MTs)
2001-02	2,69,497
2002-03	2,36,758
2003-04	2,24,243
2004-05	2,11,033
2005-06	2,16,308
2006-07 (April-September, 2006)	1,08,154

(c) and (d) This Ministry has received representations from various State Governments/Union Territories, including the Government of Kerala, for the enhancement of their SKO quota. In view of the requests received from various State Governments for increasing the allocation, the Government of India commissioned the detailed study of Kerosene demand in the country, through the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in December 2004. The recommendations of NCAER have been received and the same are under examination.

Pending taking a view on the report of NCAER, the allocations for 2005-06 were maintained at the level of 2004-05, including additional allocations made during that year to meet emergency/urgent demands for PDS Kerosene in States/Union Territories. For the 1st and 2nd quarter of 2006-07, allocations have been maintained at the level of 2005-06.

Natural Gas Pipeline Policy

812. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry had a meeting with industry players (public and private) to finalise the draft regarding Natural Gas Pipeline Policy;

(b) if so, whether the key proposal about industry's acceptance of minimum 33 per cent additional capacity of pipeline to be built in order to avail the benefit of the infrastructure status was discussed; and

(c) if so, what were the main decisions arrived at and to what extent approval has been received from these players for finalizing the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL) :(a) Yes, Sir. Meetings were held with the industry on 2.6.2006 and 4.7.2006.

(b) and (c) Various issues relating to the draft policy for development of natural gas pipelines and city or local natural gas distribution networks, including those relating to providing at least 335 extra capacity in gas pipelines for use on common carrier basis by and third party on open access and non-discriminatory basis, were discussed. The draft Policy hs not been finalized as yet.

Import of LNG from Iran

†813. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to some reasons the deal to import LNG (Lequefied Natural Gas) from Iran has got into dispute;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts being made by Government to overcome difficulties in this deal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) A Sale Purchase Agreement (SPA) for the purchase of 5 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) of LNG was signed between Gail (India) Limited (GAIL)/Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)/ Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and National Iranian Gas Export Company (NIGEC), on 13th June, 2005 in Tehran. The contract period is 25 years, beginning from the last quarter of 2009.

Simultaneously, the parties also signed a side letter to the LNG SPA on 13th June, 2005 as per which NIGEC desired to obtain the approval of their parent company, National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), for the SPA to become effective.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.